GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:633
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2005
DEVELOPMENT OF LATENT TALENTS IN SCHOOLS
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether a large number of talented students, particularly in the rural areas, are unable to develop their potentiality due to the weak economic conditions;

(b)if so, whether the Government is considering to set up a fund for providing financial help to encourage talents in schools; and

(c)if so, details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIARJUN SINGH)

(a) to (c) No such statistics are maintained by the Government. However,Government runs many programmes to help talented students from the rural areas: -

(i) The Ministry of Human Resource Development operates the National Merit Scholarship Scheme through States/UTs under which scholarships are provided to meritorious students from rura! areas studying in classes IX and X. Besides, scholarships are aiso provided to ail the meritorious students, including students from rural areas, studying from the post-rnatric to the post-graduate level.

(ii) The Ministry of Human Resource Development seeks to operate, on an average, one Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya [JNV] in each district in the country with the objective to provide good quality modern education to the talented children in rural areas without regard to their family`s socio-economic condition. Reservation of seats is provided to rural students, SC/ST and girl students, which is generally in excess of the national average. The scheme is fully funded by the Government of India.

(iii) The Ministry also conducts a National Talent Search Examination to identify and nurture talented students.

(iv) The national curriculum framework adopted for the schools by CBSE provides equal opportunities for the students of all categories to develop their latent potential. There is no separate proposal to set up a dedicated fund for this purpose.